

lost in one sense without our beloved pastor to guide us in our work, but our dear Savior is always present with us, and we can rest at ease and feel perfectly safe and happy in our Father's care. O, it is so grand to trust the Lord and cast all our care upon him; then we can feel perfectly safe and happy in him at any place, at all times, and under all circumstances. All I regret myself is that I did not realize these great privileges and blessings long ago; which are as free as the waters of the mighty deep; and he is anxiously and constantly tolling his chimes for us, and inviting us to soften the hardened cords of our hearts, come and partake abundantly of this free and mighty fountain that never runs dry.

Last week another one of Washington's young men realized the great essentiality, consolation and pleasure of surrendering himself fully to the Lord, and made application for baptism. Arrangements were made to have the baptism at the bathing-beach in the Potomac—almost in the shadow of the Washington monument. It is a real nice place to perform baptism, but of course is very inconvenient in a great many ways. Eight o'clock Sunday morning was set for the baptism. When morning dawned it brought forth a steady rain with a very high wind, and was quite cool; all of which made it a very disagreeable morning. It is a distance of about three miles to the beach—one half-mile from any car line. Some thought the young man would not turn out on such a bad morning on account of his health being very feeble, but like a brave soldier of the cross, he trusted the Lord for strength and came through it all. A number of us were present and all seemed to enjoy it disregarding the unfavorable weather. Got along real nicely. After the baptism the young man returned home and then came to the usual morning service through all the rain; after which the confirmation service was performed. He is a fine young man and we feel sure he will make a faithful Christian and be a great help to our work. O, if all of God's children would be as brave as this young man and sacrifice their feelings a little, trust in the Lord and come out to his places of worship, disregarding rain and unfavorable weather, what great blessings they would receive, and the work of our Master would be extended and built up wonderfully. I am sure nothing would be more pleasing to the Lord than to see his children always meet promptly for service, and not just meet when it is most convenient and the weather is most suitable, etc. I am sure if we promise to meet one of our earthly friends we will make every effort to fulfill the promise—likewise, when we give our hearts to God we promise to become his servant and do his will to the best of our knowledge and ability. I am sure we cannot say it is not God's will for us to attend his services when the weather is a little disagreeable or when we have some other insufficient reasons.

We are always prompt in doing the work required of us for a livelihood; then why

should we not be prompt in doing God's work, when it is so much more important and appertains to everlasting life? Probably some would say, "I don't like to go out for fear the dampness might spoil the luster of my nice suit;" as much as to say, "I think more of the brilliancy of my nice clothing than I do of God's service." This surely would be very distasteful to our Savior. God wants his work done as speedily as possible, and it must be very annoying to him for us to say, "we will just work for the Lord when the season is most convenient; when there seems to be nothing in our way to inconvenience our work at all. May God arouse us all to a full and deep sense of our whole duty.

Our tract worker, Miss Detwiler, has now left us. She was an earnest worker, got along well, and was a great help to our mission work. If some one else now, who is filled with the spirit of God, and would like to do similar missionary work and help us along, can do well by writing to Brother Lyon for full particulars—Come and do some work for the Lord in this dreadful city.

There is one thing that comes before my mind very impressively, which I think should be considered more seriously and impressed upon the minds of the people more firmly than it is being at present; that is this:

THE SPIRIT OF SELF-DENIAL

I think we would have more of the spirit of self-denial of things which are of no material benefit, but often detrimental to us; and also things which we can very conveniently do without, and use this money to extend the "Gospel work." Some of the statistics of our Christian country in regard to this evil waste impressed me very much. I notice \$20,000,000 a year is spent for chewing-gum; \$10,000,000 for peanuts; \$800,000,000 for tobacco, and over \$1, 400,000,000 for drink—what a shame. It seems we always have plenty of money for things we like. I also notice that in New York alone, \$2,000,000 were spent on Easter Sunday for cut flowers to show love to God; O, what a mistake that must be; when they think they are pleasing God, I am afraid it is the reverse. Surely God is not pleased to see his children spend all of this money for the lust of the eye, when the same could be used to extend his work, and when it comes to giving money for missionary work, probably the ones that gave most liberally for the flowers would give but little if any for this great important cause. Do you think it would please your earthly father if you should take his own money which he needed so badly to advance his work and buy flowers and strew them around for the purpose of honoring him? I am sure all would answer this in the negative; then why will you treat your Heavenly father thus, when he is nearer and dearer than all! How can we expect God's blessing when we can't part with our money to extend his work, but have plenty for the lust of the eye—There is always plenty of money for things we like.

Buffalo Bill's Wild West show is in this

city now, and will take away with them probably not less than \$20,000; a great part of which will come from the poorest class of people in the city, who have been economizing for the past month or two to get money enough to go to the show. They must and will have money for the things they like, but when they are asked to give a little money to help along with "gospel work," they will say, "Indeed it is all we can do to get along with what we have, and when they go to church they will probably pitch a penny in the collection basket. Just think of it; think how distasteful this must be in the sight of God.

Now, on the other hand, we will see what a little self-denial will do. We will take for an illustration the "Salvation Army." There are nearly 6000 corps of the Army, with over 13000 officers. They treat one week out of each year as a self-denial week to raise money to extend the Lord's work. The result of the self-denial week this year was that nearly \$166,000 were added to the funds; this was \$40,000 more than that of last year. Just see what a little effort on the part of all of this little band has accomplished; then what wonderful work could be done, should all Christian people do likewise. Just think of it for a moment. If the Brethren church should adopt such a plan, and each member practice self-denial enough to raise \$1.00 each, about \$15000 would be raised in the one week—enough to build a church in Washington, Chicago and N. J. I should think it a very good plan indeed. It is impossible for the brethren to make much advancement in this city until the church house is built. I sincerely hope and pray these few thoughts may cause many to think more seriously over this matter, and be moved upon to make some self-denial, and help us along in our efforts to build up a church in this beautiful city. If all would give a little what great results it would bring. I think the ministers of the different congregations ought to make a special effort to stir up their members to action on this important part of God's work.

The thing I consider best for us to do in this whole matter is to get right down on our knees and tell it to Jesus; tell him just what we have been doing; how much we have spent for chewing-gum, tobacco and other similar trash that is useless and deteriorating; and how much you have spent for things you could very conveniently get along without. Then wind up by telling Him how we have given to extend his work; how many self-denials and sacrifices we have made solely for the purpose of advancing his cause. Then see how the former and the latter stand on the balance. If the former counterbalances the latter, just see what a grand blessing we will not receive; if the latter counterbalances the former, then see what a great blessing we will receive. I don't mean to infer that we should merely try to make the latter countervail the former, but we should try to make the former as light and